

TESTIMONY OF LYME FIRST SELECTMAN RALPH ENO

HB 5709

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S
AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL STORMWATER SEWER SYSTEMS OUTSIDE OF URBAN AREAS**

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to you today. My name is Ralph Eno. I am First Selectman in the Town of Lyme and I wish to go on record as being in support of House Bill 5709 which would prohibit the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection from exceeding federal regulations concerning its revised MS4 General Permit.

In its present form, compliance burdens would be imposed on 49 small towns despite the fact that they do not fall under federal law since they are not characterized as "urban areas."

DEEP is overreaching its authority imposing an unfunded mandate on small towns with low population densities, little in the way of large commercial and industrialized zones or significant amounts of impervious surfaces draining into state waterways.

Small towns in general and Lyme in particular do not have the in house resources necessary to produce the annual reports and public information campaigns presently required under terms of the Tier Two designation let alone a leaf collection mandate which makes no sense in rural areas.

Once again and most importantly this is not required by federal law. State aid to municipalities is flat again next year. The Resident Trooper program may become more costly and other cuts may be in the offing as you grapple with difficult budget issues. DEEP should not be allowed to pass along another unfunded mandate to 49 municipalities which when considered on a cost to benefit basis is simply not worth the money.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I respectfully request the committee's support for HB 5709.